

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-38 are cancelled.

39. (new) A method of executing one or more independent software application programs from a common use terminal of a hardware platform, comprising the steps of:

launching an application program by browser software located in the common use access terminal;

forming a secure web based connection between the browser software and software of a web server;

providing exclusive control of the hardware platform including one or more peripheral devices associated therewith by said software of the web server for the duration of the application program; and

wherein said one or more application programs include a package pick-up application server program, and further comprising the steps of:

selecting said package pick-up application server program at the common use terminal;

requesting tracking information by the package pick-up application server program;

inputting said tracking information at the common use access terminal;

validating the tracking information by the package pick-up application server program;

sending a request to the browser by the package pick-up application server program to open a door of a storage device in the hardware platform for package pick-up;

opening the door in front of a bin containing the package tracking information by the package pick-up server application program;
receiving a pick-up confirmation from the common use access terminal by the package pick-up application server program;
returning a screen at the common use access terminal to a main screen containing a menu of the one or more software application programs; and
clearing a memory containing data entered at the beginning of the package pick-up application server program for a subsequent application.

40. (new) The method of claim 39 wherein the common use terminal comprises a kiosk

41. (new) A method of executing one or more independent software application programs from a common use terminal of a hardware platform, comprising the steps of:

launching an application program by browser software located in a common use access terminal;

forming a secure web based connection between the browser software and software of a web server;
providing exclusive control of the hardware platform including one or more peripheral devices associated therewith by said software of the web server for the duration of the application program; and

wherein said one or more application programs include a package exchange application server program, and further comprising the steps of:
selecting said package exchange application server program at the common use terminal;

requesting information by said exchange application server program about a package to be exchanged;

inputting the requested information at the common use access terminal;
validating the requested information by the exchange application server
program;

sending a request by the exchange application server program to open a
door of a storage device of the hardware platform;

opening the door for insertion of said package to be exchanged;

receiving a package exchange confirmation by the exchange application
server program from the user access terminal;

returning a screen located at the common use access terminal to a
screen containing a menu of said one or more application programs; and

clearing a memory containing data entered at the beginning of the
package exchange application program for a subsequent application.

42. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein the common use terminal
comprises a kiosk.

43. (new) A method of executing one or more independent software
application program from a common use terminal of a hardware platform,
comprising the steps of:

launching an application program by browser software located in a
common use access terminal;

forming a secure web based connection between the browser software
and software of a web server;

providing exclusive control of the hardware platform including one or
more peripheral devices associated therewith by said software of the web server
for the duration of the application program; and

wherein said one or more application programs include an application
server program for a club type application and further comprising the steps of:

selecting said club type application server program at the common use terminal;

requesting club member information by the club type application server program;

entering the requested club member information at the common use access terminal;

validating the member information by the club type server application program;

sending a request to the browser to open a door of the hardware platform by the club type server application program;

opening the door of the hardware platform;

receiving a confirmation of the door opening by the club type application server program from the common use access terminal;

returning a screen located at the common use access terminal to a screen display containing a menu of the one or more application programs; and clearing a memory containing data entered at the beginning of the club type application program for a subsequent application.

44. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the common use terminal comprises a kiosk.

45. (new) A method of executing one or more independent software application programs from a common use terminal of a hardware platform, comprising the steps of:

launching an application program by browser software located in a common use access terminal;

forming a secure web based connection between the browser software and software of a web server;

providing exclusive control of the hardware platform including one or more peripheral devices associated therewith by said software of the web server for the duration of the application program; and

wherein said one or more application programs comprises a postage buying application server program, and further comprising the steps of:

selecting said buying postage application server program at the common use terminal;

requesting certain credit information by said buying postage application server program;

entering the requested credit information at the common use access terminal;

validating credit information by said buying postage application server program;

sending a request to the browser by the postage application server program to print postage;

printing postage at the common use access terminal;

receiving a confirmation of printed postage by the postage application server from the common use terminal;

returning a screen located at the common use access terminal to a menu containing said one or more applications; and

clearing a memory containing data entered at the beginning of the purchase postage application for a subsequent application.

46. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the common use terminal comprises a kiosk.

47. (new) A method of executing one or more independent software application programs from a common use terminal of a hardware platform including a computer sub-system, comprising the steps of:

launching an application server program by browser software located in a common use access terminal by a user activating application program selection means located thereat;

forming a secure web based connection between the browser software and software of a web server which thereafter executes said application program;

said web server software assuming exclusive control of the platform including one or more peripheral devices associated therewith for the duration of the application program; and

wherein said one or more application programs include a package pick-up application server program and including the steps of:

selecting said package pick-up application program by a user at the common use terminal;

requesting tracking number information from the user by the package pick-up application server program;

inputting a tracking PIN number by the user at the common use access terminal via a bar code reader or a touch screen;

validating the PIN number by the package pick-up web server application program;

sending a request to the browser by the package pick-up server application program to open a door of a storage device in a storage sub-system of the hardware platform;

opening the door in front of a bin containing the package tracking number,

receiving a package pick-up confirmation from the common use access terminal by the package pick-up application server program;

returning a screen at the common use access terminal to a main screen containing a menu of the one or more software application programs; and

clearing a memory of the data relating to the package pick-up application program inputted by the user for a subsequent application.

48. (new) The method of claim 47 wherein the browser is Active X controlled.

49. (new) The method of claim 47 wherein the common use terminal comprises a kiosk.

50. (new) A method of executing one or more independent software application programs from a common use terminal of a hardware platform including a computer sub-system, comprising the steps of:

launching an application server program by browser software located in a common use access terminal by a user activating application program selection means located thereat;

forming a secure web based connection between the browser software and software of a web server which thereafter executes said application program;

said web server software assuming exclusive control of the platform including one or more peripheral devices associated therewith for the duration of the application program; and

wherein said one or more application programs include a package exchange application server program and including the steps of:

selecting said package exchange application server program by a user at the common use terminal;

requesting a PIN ID number from the user by said exchange application server program;

inputting the PIN ID number by the user at the common use access terminal via a PIN pad or touch screen;

validating PIN ID information by the exchange application server program;

the exchange application server program sending a request to the browser to open a door of a storage device of the storage sub-system for a package exchange by the user;

opening the door containing the PIN ID member using controls of the browser;

receiving a package exchange confirmation by the exchange application server program from the user access terminal;

returning a screen located at the common use access terminal to a screen containing a menu of said one or more application programs; and

clearing a memory containing data relating to information for the package exchange application program for a subsequent application.

51. (new) The method of claim 50 wherein the browser is Active X controlled.

52. (new) The method of claim 50 wherein the common use terminal comprises a kiosk.

53. (new) A method of executing one or more independent software application programs from a common use terminal of a hardware platform, comprising the steps of:

launching an application server program by browser software located in a common use access terminal by a user activating application program selection means located thereat;

forming a secure web based connection between the browser software and software of a web server which thereafter executes said application program;

said web server software assuming exclusive control of the platform including one or more peripheral devices associated therewith for the duration of the application program; and

wherein said one or more application programs include an application server program for a club type application and including the steps of:

selecting the club type application server program by the user at the common use terminal;

requesting club member information from a magnetic card of a user by the club type application at the common use access terminal;

swiping the card in a card reader by the user at the common use access terminal;

validating the member information by the club type server application program;

sending a request to the browser by the club type server application program to open a door of a storage device of the storage sub-system;

opening the door containing a package requested by the member;

receiving a package retrieval confirmation by the club type application server program from the common use access terminal;

returning a screen located at the common use access terminal to a screen display containing a menu of the one or more application programs; and clearing a memory containing data related to the information inputted by the user at the beginning of the club type application program for a subsequent application.

54. (new) The method of claim 53 wherein the browser is Active X controlled.

55. (new) The method of claim 53 wherein the common use terminal comprises a kiosk.

56. (new) A method of executing one or more independent software application programs from a common use terminal of a hardware platform, comprising the steps of:

launching an application server program by browser software located in a common use access terminal by a user activating application program selection means located thereat;

forming a secure web based connection between the browser software and software of a web server which thereafter executes said application program;

said web server software assuming exclusive control of the platform including one or more peripheral devices associated therewith for the duration of the application program; and

wherein said one or more application programs comprises a postage buying application server program and including the steps of:

selecting the buying postage application server program by the user at the common use terminal;

requesting credit information from the user by said buying postage application server program using the browser in the common use access terminal;

swiping a magnetic card including credit information by the user at a card reader located at the common use access terminal;

validating credit information by said buying postage application server program;

sending a request to the browser by the postage application server program to print postage;

printing postage at the common use access terminal;

receiving a confirmation of printed postage by the postage application server from the common use terminal;

returning a screen located at the common use access terminal to a menu containing said one or more applications; and

clearing a memory of the data entered by the user at the beginning of the purchase postage application for a subsequent application.

57 (new) The method of claim 56 wherein the browser is Active X controlled.

58. (new) The method of claim 56 wherein the common use terminal comprises a kiosk.